WAYS TO BE HAPPIER RIGHT NOW

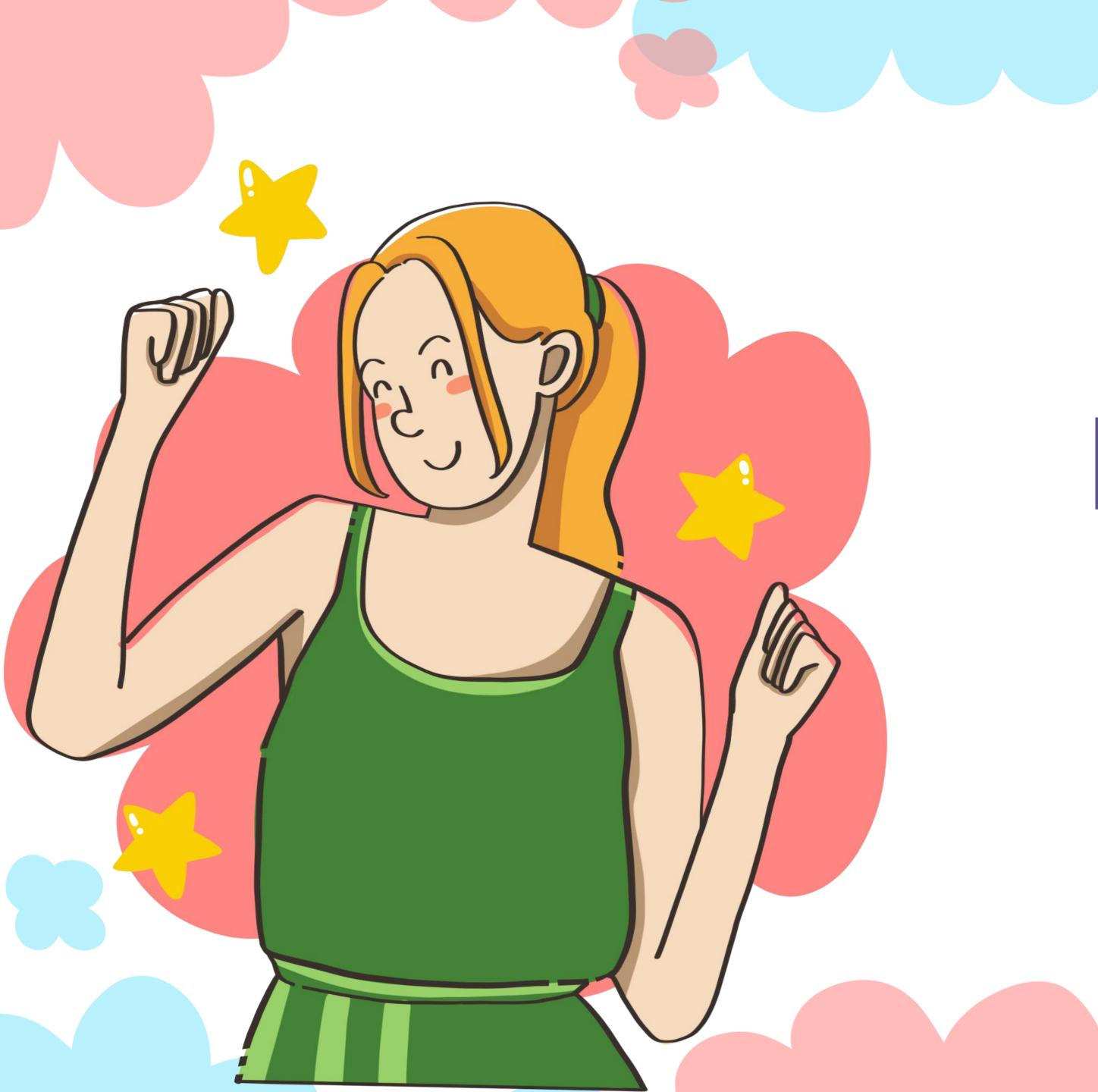


What would it take to make you happier in a hurry?

You might dream about winning a lottery or looking like your favorite movie star.

However, real and lasting contentment is much more accessible, and a little dose of pleasant feelings each day can help you stay on track.

Try these 15 tips for boosting your happiness right now...



FINDING HAPPINESS ON YOUR OWN

Happiness starts from within.

It's a choice you can make any time, rather than having to wait for your circumstances to change.

Try these tips...



Remember that life is full of ups and downs.

Setbacks are temporary.

Take note of the fortunate events that happen each day.

Challenge your doubts and focus on solutions.

2. CULTIVATE GRATITUDE.



Count your blessings.

Let others know how much you appreciate them.

Thank your partner for taking out the garbage or making you laugh.

3. RESTAND RELAX.



Sleep deprivation can make you irritable.

Have a consistent time to go to bed and get up.

Aim for 7-8 hours of good sleep each night.

4. WORK OUT.



Physical activity can lighten your mood.

Visit the gym during your lunch hour or go for a run after work.

5. BREATHE DEEPLY.



Deep breathing reduces stress and anxiety.

Take a class or borrow a library book to learn breathing exercises you can do at home.

6. APPRECIATE NATURE.



Green spaces can make you more cheerful.

Pack a picnic lunch to take to the beach or a local park.

Spend your weekend hiking or bird watching.

7. ACCEPT YOUR EMOTIONS.



Some research suggests that chasing happiness too aggressively can actually make you feel worse.

Remember that you've survived hard times before and can do it again.



What if you're sad most of the time, and those feelings are interfering with your life?

Talk with your doctor to see if there's a physical cause or if you may be experiencing depression.

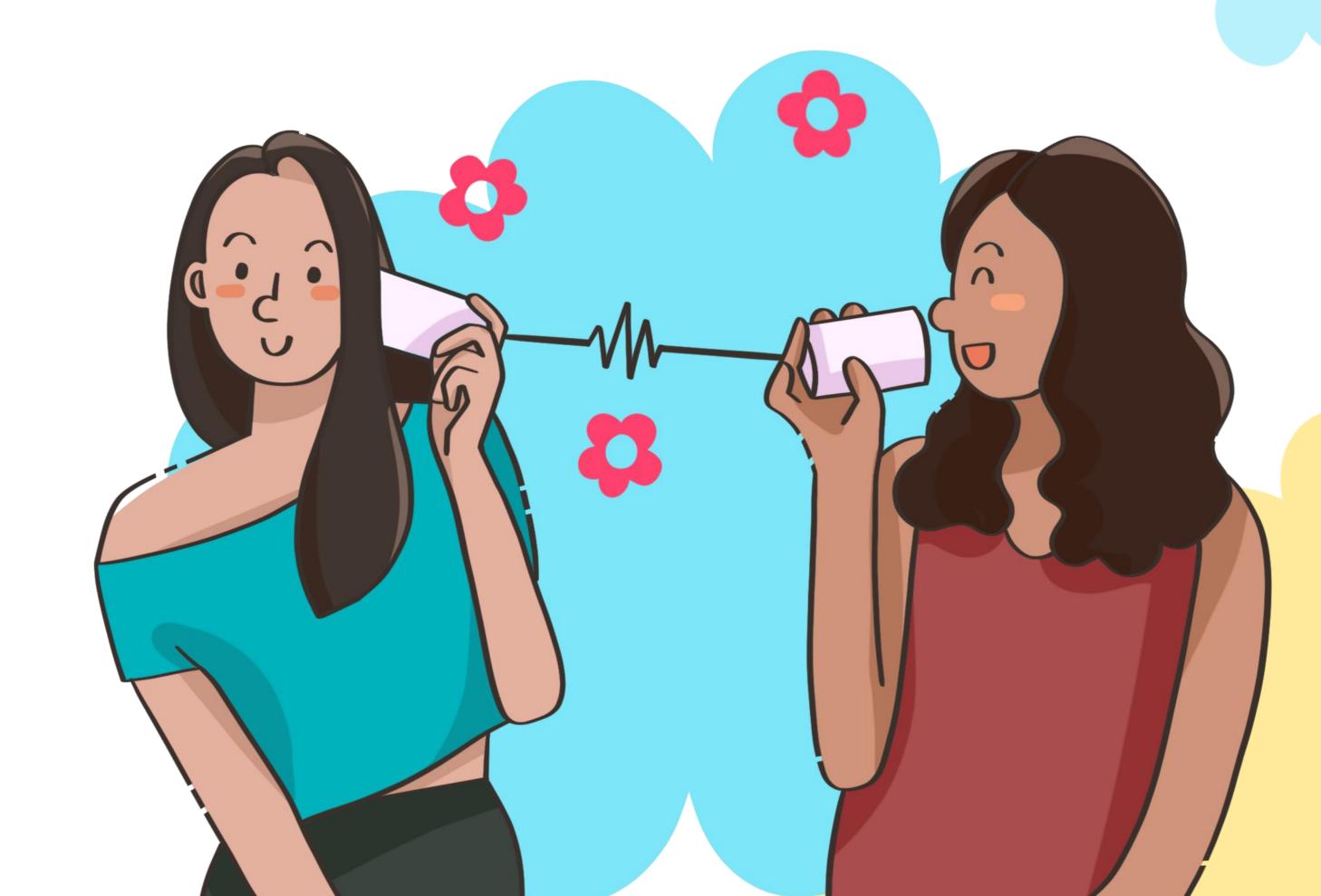


Many researchers have found that our relationships help to determine how much we enjoy life.

For example, a 75 year study at Harvard of two generations of middle aged adults concluded that deep and honest connections were the biggest predictor of happiness.

Keep these ideas in mind...

1. LISTEN CLOSELY.



Show others that you care about them and what they have to say.

Give them your undivided attention instead of looking at your phone.

2. COMMUNICATE NO OPENLY.



Express your thoughts and feelings tactfully and directly.

Be patient and flexible, especially when you're discussing sensitive subjects.

3. ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF.



Be assertive.

Ask for what you need while being respectful of others.

Stay calm and uphold your boundaries.

4. SHARE SUPPORT.

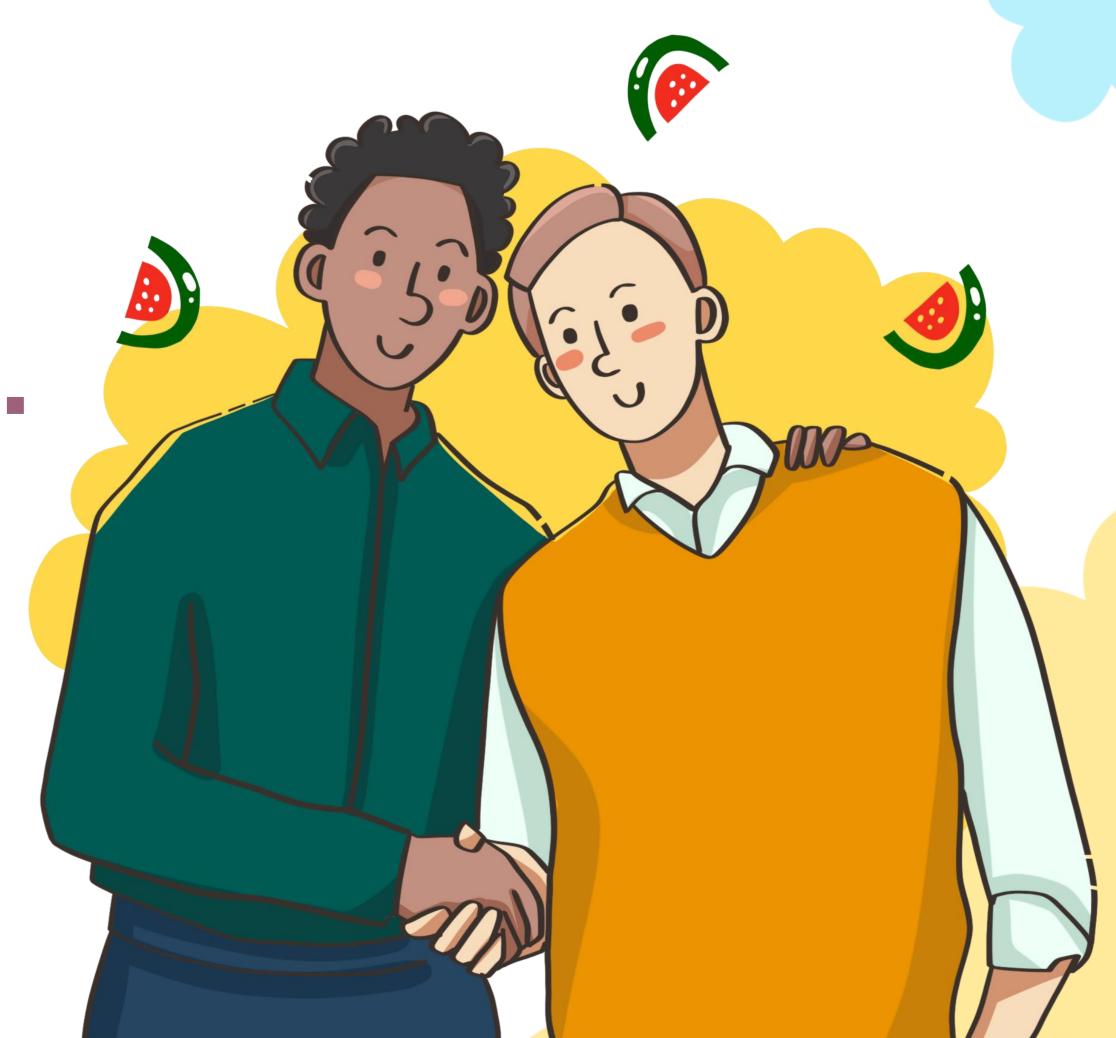


Healthy relationships are based on mutual respect and affection.

Treat others with kindness and compassion.

Spend time with family and friends who value you and lift you up.





Building a network of support helps to avoid putting too much pressure on any single relationship. It's natural to be needy sometimes, but keep track of how much time and attention you're seeking.





Allow yourself to be known and understood and give others the opportunity to do the same.

Live your life according to your own values and beliefs.

7. BUY GIFTS.



Spending money on others tends to make you happier than purchasing things for yourself.

Throw parties for your friends.

Donate to worthy causes.



BE HAPPY!

You're bound to run into difficult days, but most of your happiness depends on things you can control.

Think positive and spend time with your loved ones.

You'll make your life more joyful and meaningful.